

MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Heather Weaver, RN
Immunization Program Manager

RE: Availability of New Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine

DATE: June 7, 2005

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, Menactra™, was licensed in January 2005. The vaccine was licensed for use among people age 11 to 55 years. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy of Family Physicians recommend routine vaccination with Menactra™ for the following groups:

- Young adolescents (11-12 years of age) at the pre-adolescent visit
- Adolescents entering high school (approximately 15 years of age)
- College freshman living in dormitories
- Other populations at increased risk:
 - military recruits
 - travelers to areas in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic
 - microbiologists who are routinely exposed to isolates of *Neisseria meningitidis*
 - patients with anatomic or functional asplenia
 - patients with terminal complement deficiency
 - other adolescents, college freshman, and people infected with human immunodeficiency virus who wish to decrease their risk for meningococcal disease

The ACIP recommendations are available online at:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5407a1.htm.

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The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program will be supplying Menactra™ to Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible children only.

VFC eligible children must be 18 years of age or younger and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- **Medicaid eligible** - a child who is eligible for the Medicaid program
- **Uninsured** - a child who has no health insurance coverage.
- **American Indian or Alaska Native**
- **Underinsured** - a child whose health insurance benefit plan does not include vaccinations. Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only if they are served by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC).

Providers should purchase private Menactra™ vaccine supplies for children who do not qualify for the VFC program. Private Menactra™ vaccine can be purchased online from Sanofi Pasteur at: www.vaccineshoppe.com/.

Menactra™ vaccine will be available in limited quantities to providers beginning July 1, 2005. All Menactra™ vaccine orders must be pre-approved by the NDDoH Immunization Program. Once pre-approved, a vaccine order form should be completed and submitted to the NDDoH. Enclosed is a vaccine order form. Providers should call the NDDoH Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180 to have Menactra™ orders pre-approved.

Please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns.

cc: Dr. Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer
Dr. Craig Lambrecht, State Medical Director